WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing device comprising:

an SIMD (Single Instruction stream Multiple Data stream) calculating means for performing operations, such as motion compensation, motion prediction, DCT (Discrete Cosine Transform) processing, IDCT (Inverse Discrete Cosine Transform) processing, quantization, and reverse quantization by means of a pipeline operation unit that can be program-controlled by an outside unit;

a VLC (Variable Length Code) processing means for performing variable-length encoding processing and variable-length decoding processing according to a given encoding method;

an external data interface means for performing a data transfer between the image processing device and an outside unit;

an instruction memory for holding an instruction to be processed; and

a processor means for decoding the instruction held by said instruction memory, and for performing a programmed control operation on said SIMD calculating means, said VLC processing means, and said external data interface means.

2. The image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said instruction memory is a RAM (Random Access Memory).

3. The image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said instruction memory is a ROM (Read Only Memory).